



Human Relations Commission
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Tucson Human Relations Commission MINUTES

The regular meeting of the Tucson Human Relations Commission was called to order by Chair Glenn Howell, on Wednesday, **May 9, 2007**, at 5:36 p.m., in the Mayor and Council Conference Room of City Hall (1st Floor), 255 W. Alameda, Tucson, Arizona.

1. Call to Order/Roll Call

Members Present:

Victor Flores
Joe Yee, Vice Chair
Timothy Dunne
Mitchell Dorson
Glenn Howell, Chair
Sat Bir Kaur Khalsa, Treasurer
Ana "Bertie" Lozano

Representing:

Ward 1
Ward 2
Ward 3
Ward 4
Ward 5
Ward 6
GLBT Commission (arrived at 5:44 p.m.)

Members Absent:

Martha Gabusi Taylor

Representing:

Mayor

Others Present:

Irene Yeh, Co-Director of Dialogue and Curriculum Project, "Divided We Fall"
Ray Davies, former Commissioner
Geoff Gonzales, Management Assistant, City Clerk's Office
Shawna Lee, Recording Secretary, City Clerk's Office

2. Approval of Minutes – March 14, 2007; April 4, 2007; and April 11, 2007

Chair Howell confirmed every one had the opportunity to review the minutes.

It was moved by Mr. Dunne, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 6 to 0 (Ms. Taylor and Ms. Lozano absent), to approve minutes as presented.

4. Treasurer's Report (Sat Bir)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

Report received; discussion ensued regarding the remaining balance of the Commission's account, and the amount in the City's account for the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund.

It was moved by Mr. Yee, duly seconded and passed by a roll call vote of 6 to 0 (Ms. Taylor and Ms. Lozano absent), to approve the Report as presented.

3. Chairman's Summary of Current Events – Information Only (Glenn)

Chair Howell announced there was a documentary on Holocaust survivors, focusing on the importance of teaching children about the Holocaust. The documentary was airing on Channel 12, and the Jewish Federation of Southern Arizona would host a screening of the film on May 17, 2007.

Chair Howell stated he would have more free time during the summer, if there was anything the Commissioners thought he should attend or be involved with.

4. Treasurer's Report (Sat Bir)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 2.)

5. Invitations/Requests for Financial Support

a. League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) 18th Annual Educational Awards (Glenn)

Chair Howell said this event had passed, and he asked what the direction was regarding a contribution.

Staff said Chair Howell asked if any Commissioners were able to attend, but no one was available.

Chair Howell recommended making a donation.

Discussion ensued regarding other items that might require expenditures, the remaining balance in the account, and when the Commission would get its next Fiscal Year allocation. Discussion followed regarding how much the Commission contributed to this event in the previous year.

Chair Howell directed discussion of this item be tabled until after consideration of other possible expenditures.

Discussion of this item resumed after Item 13.

b. Southern Poverty Law Center Annual Membership (Glenn)

Chair Howell asked when the Commission last renewed its membership.

Staff said the last renewal was in January 2006, for fifty-five dollars.

It was moved by Mr. Yee, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Taylor absent), to approve payment of fifty-five dollars for annual membership.

c. Chicanos Por La Causa Tucson 27th Annual Anniversary Dinner on June 7, 2007 (Glenn)

Discussion ensued regarding the cost of purchasing a ticket to this event, and how much money the Commission had available.

Staff said she spoke with Adela Gonzales at Chicanos Por La Cuasa, who said the Commission could contribute an amount other than the cost of a ticket, if so desired.

Discussion ensued regarding the consideration of this item after that of other expenditure-related items.

Discussion of this item resumed after discussion of Item 5a resumed.

d. Support of “Divided We Fall” Movie Presentation (Sat Bir)

Ms. Khalsa said this request would not require payment out of the current fiscal year budget. She said the presentation of “Divided We Fall” was being planned for the fall, and introduced Irene Yeh, Co-Director of the Dialogue and Curriculum Project for Divided We Fall. The tentative amount of financial support needed was between three thousand dollars and five thousand dollars, plus housing for those involved with the showing and discussion of the film.

Ms. Khalsa said the Commission would not be able to financially support the film screening, but could provide support in the form of assistance with promoting it, and by allowing use of its logo and mailing list.

Ms. Khalsa said there was also another film specifically about Balbar Singh Sodhi, the Sikh who was murdered in Mesa, Arizona, following the attacks on September 11, 2001. She said his brother was showing the film in Tucson, and was very excited about possibly collaborating with “Divided We Fall.”

Ms. Yeh presented information, and discussion ensued, regarding “Divided We Fall”. No financial support was requested at that time; support was requested in the form of use of the Commission’s mailing list and assistance with promotion. She suggested the creation of a committee to organize and delegate responsibilities for publicity and fundraising.

Mr. Flores said what he understood of the request was that the Commission provide an advisory body to assist with the logistics of bringing the film screening and dialogue to the community.

It was moved by Mr. Dunne, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Taylor absent), to create a Subcommittee to support the showing of Divided We Fall. Subcommittee members to be: Ms. Khalsa (Chair), Mr. Dunne and Mr. Yee.

18. Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund (Glenn)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

Discussion ensued regarding the deposits received by the Community Foundation for Southern Arizona as a result of the Ray Davies Humanitarian Award presentation.

Ray Davies thanked the Commission for the event at which the Ray Davies Humanitarian Award was presented, and where donations to the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund were solicited.

He requested programs from the Ray Davies Humanitarian Award presentation and donation envelopes be sent to Desert Diamond Casino and Raytheon. He also presented a personal donation to the Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund.

13. Retreat Subcommittee (Sat Bir)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

Recommendation received from the May 2, 2007 Retreat Subcommittee Legal Action Report. Ms. Khalsa said Randolph Park Hotel would charge one hundred dollars for use of a room, breakfast, and beverage service all day.

Discussion ensued regarding the date for the Retreat. Ms. Khalsa said she would find out if the Randolph Park Hotel would be available on July 7, 2007.

It was moved by Ms. Lozano, duly seconded, and carried by a voice vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Taylor absent), to approve the recommendations of the Subcommittee, with the exception of changing the date to July 7, 2007.

Discussion of this item resumed after Item 15.

5. Invitations/Requests for Financial Support

(Note: Discussion of Items 5a and 5c resumed after Item 13.)

a. League of United Latin American Citizens (LULAC) 18th Annual Educational Awards (Glenn)

It was moved by Mr. Flores, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Taylor absent), to approve contribution of one hundred fifty dollars.

c. Chicanos Por La Causa Tucson 27th Annual Anniversary Dinner on June 7, 2007 (Glenn)

Discussion ensued regarding which Commissioners could attend the event. Chair Howell said he was available to attend.

It was moved by Mr. Dunne, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Taylor absent), to approve purchasing one ticket at a cost of one hundred fifty dollars.

15. Budget Expenditure for “Us and Them” Teaching Tolerance Program (Mitch)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

Mr. Dorson presented an instructional kit for use by schools. He said the kit was free, and additional magazines were available for purchase at a cost of one dollar each.

Discussion ensued regarding purchasing the kits for distribution to area high schools.

Mr. Dorson agreed to contact the schools that nominated students for the Ray Davies Humanitarian Award, and find out how many kits and magazines the schools would like.

It was moved by Chair Howell, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Taylor absent), to allocate one hundred fifty dollars for “Us and Them” instructional kits and magazines.

13. Retreat Subcommittee (Sat Bir)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

It was moved by Chair Howell, duly seconded, and passed by a roll call vote of 7 to 0 (Ms. Taylor absent), to allocate eighty-two dollars and thirty-three cents as a deposit towards food for the retreat, pending selection of the business.

16. Rabbi Bilgray Award (Glenn)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

This item was discussed in conjunction with Item 17, below.

17. Stanley Feldman Award (Tim)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

Chair Howell suggested the next presentation of the Rabbi Bilgray, Stanley Feldman, and Ray Davies Awards be at a single event next year, to be underwritten by various groups from the community.

Staff verified that consideration of the three awards should be under one item on future agendas.

11. Event and Award Honoring Ray Davies – follow -up (Glenn)

(Note: This item was taken out of order.)

Staff provided the following update:

- Certificates and books were sent to the students who were not at the event
- “Thank you” letters were prepared for sponsors; awaiting final contact information
- Only one of the three students who won Savings Bonds had submitted his Social Security Number
- Ray Davies requested programs and donation envelopes be sent to various individuals, some of whom already responded and/or sent donations

Staff was directed to:

- Purchase the Savings Bond for the student who submitted his Social Security Number
- Contact the two students who have not submitted their Social Security Numbers
- Send event programs and donation envelopes only to Raytheon and Desert Diamond Casino, as requested by Mr. Davies during Item 18
- Ask the school of the First Place winner if they have an awards banquet at which the award could be presented to her again.

6. Requests for Non-Financial Support

No requests were received.

7. Reports from Other Commissions

a. Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues (Glenn)

No report received.

b. Commission on Disability Issues (Robert Blizzard)

No report received.

8. Selection of Representative to Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues (Glenn)

Chair Howell said no other Commissioners indicated availability or interest in being appointed to the Commission on Gay, Lesbian, Bisexual, and Transgender Issues (GLBT). He announced he would, therefore, appoint himself to GLBT for another term as the Human Relations Commission representative.

9. Discussion of June 2007 Election of Officers (Sat Bir)

Staff announced nominations and voting would occur at the June meeting. At least six Commissioners needed to be present for that meeting in order to elect the Chairperson.

10. MLK Essay Contest – follow-up (Sat Bir)

Ms. Khalsa announced Clarence Boykins, Tucson Southern Arizona Black Chamber of Commerce, was attempting to secure gift cards for the two students who could not be issued Saving Bonds due to a lack of Social Security Numbers.

11. Event and Award Honoring Ray Davies – follow -up (Glenn)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 17.)

12. Community Outreach Subcommittee (Sat Bir)

This item was continued to the July meeting, at the request of Ms. Khalsa.

13. Retreat Subcommittee (Sat Bir)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 18.)

14. Discussion of Interns or Other Support to Assist the Human Relations Commission (Joe)

Mr. Yee said the head of Pima Community College's Sociology Department would be out of the office until the next semester. He would attempt to make contact then.

Mr. Yee said he spoke with someone in the Journalism Department at Pima Community College, who asked for a "job description" for an intern.

Mr. Yee also spoke with a coordinator for interns in the University of Arizona Journalism Department, who was not sure the interns would be eligible to receive credit, but details would need to be worked out with the student(s) and professor(s).

Mr. Yee identified details that needed to be addressed in order to set up an internship for a college student to provide additional support to the Commission, including:

- accreditation or qualification to tutor or act as a mentor to the intern
- job description, including what would be expected from the intern

Staff was directed to send the Commission a list of tasks the intern could help with.

Mr. Flores said he would be able to provide a generic job description for an intern from his office, which could be tailored as needed.

15. Budget Expenditure for "Us and Them" Teaching Tolerance Program (Mitch)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 5c.)

16. Rabbi Bilgray Award (Glenn)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 13.)

17. Stanley Feldman Award (Tim)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 16.)

18. Rosa Parks Scholarship Fund (Glenn)

(Note: This item was taken out of order and considered after Item 5d.)

19. Discussion Regarding Student/Youth Representation on the Commission (Glenn)

Chair Howell asked about the process for adding a student/youth representative to the Commission.

Staff said information would need to be prepared, justifying and outlining the anticipated outcome of adding an additional member and how that would relate to the Commission's role, including details regarding selection of the new member. This information would then be presented to Mayor and Council for consideration.

Chair Howell said he would submit details to staff.

20. Upcoming Events - Attendees and Alternates (Glenn)

This item was not considered.

- 21. Call to Audience**
No speakers were present.
- 22. Future Agenda Items – Information Only**
This item was not considered.
- 23. Adjournment** (7:20 p.m.)